(b) The basic design feature of an aircraft cannot be changed in an effort to extend its life, especially in ageing aircraft. However, a number of steps have been taken to improve the design features of vital aircraft components. The manufacturers and other agencies are also associated for the purpose.

Further a High Powered Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri has also reviewed the entire accident scenario and has interalia made recommendations to improve upon the design features.

Inter Continental Ballistic Missile

752. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to develop Inter Continental Ballistic Missile with a range of 3000 Km and above; and

(b) if so, the target set for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Firing by Pakistan

753. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing across Indo-Pak border and the Line of Actual Control during the last six months;

(b) the number of soldiers and civilians killed and injured in these incidents; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that this firing is stopped?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Details of firing incidents and casualties suffered along the Line of Control and International Border (IB) portion of Indo-Pak border in J&K during the past six months (01 November 1997 to 30 April 1998) are as follows:—

	No. of incidents	Army		BSF		Civilians	
		K	W	K	W	K	W
Line of control	859	5	28	1	—	—	2
IB	168	—	1	—	5	—	9

(K = killed, W= Wounded)

2. Appropriate response is given by our troops to the firing of Pakistani troops, taking due care that the incidents remain localised and our casualties are minimal.

3. There has been no firing incident along the International Border in Punjab, Rajasthan & Gujarat during the last 6 months.

Disposal of quarters of Contonment Board, Agra

754. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director General (Contonments) had sought the opinion of Contonment Board, Agra to dispose of Shakti nagar Colony quarters to its occupants and a resolution No. VI, dated 30.9.1989 amended on 20.12.1989 was passed by the Contonment Board, Agra to sell these quarters to its present occupants; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A proposal from Director General Defence Estates is pending before Government for disposal of Shakti Nagar Colony quarters. It is under consideration.

Modernisation of Armed Forces

755. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for casting off flab and adding the muscle to our armed